

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established
1915

Publication: Weekly
Subscription: \$2.00 yearly

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Associate Editor

Digest International Press
Film Service
syndicating 500 leading
newspapers in Canada.
U.S.A. and Great Britain.

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS
Easy to Digest

Published by
Canadian Moving Picture
Digest Company, Limited
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Vol. 29, No. 52

TORONTO 2, CANADA

April 16th, 1938

ANOTHER FILM MUDDLE!



As an exponent of British preferential trade and tariffs, surely Mr. Neville Kearney, of the F.B.I., who represented the film section of the Federation of British Industries

during the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, 1932, will not cheer for the clause in the British Film Quota Act which excludes pictures made in Canada and the Dominions from the Renter's Film Quota.

The Tariff schedule governing British Film imports into Canada is as follows:

On negatives the duty is 10% as compared with a 40% duty on negatives from the United States and a 32½% duty on negatives from France.

Positive Film is at the rate of 1½c per foot British preference, as compared with 3c per foot United States imports.

Accessories — British preference into Canada, 5c per pound as compared with 12½c per pound United States.

We are wondering if Mr. Kearney is aware of these figures in view of the cable which Ray Lewis received from him and in which he states:

"OUR LEGISLATION STILL OFFERS TO DOMINION PRODUCTIONS MATERIALLY GREATER ADVANTAGES THAN LEGISLATION IN ANY DOMINION AFFORDS IN PRACTICE TO U.K. FILMS."

Mr. Kearney further claims in his cable: "EDITORIAL YOUR ISSUE MARCH TWENTY SIX JUST RECEIVED IS MISLEADING STOP NEW FILMS ACT IN FORCE SINCE FIRST INSTANT DOES NOT EXCLUDE DOMINION FILMS FROM BENEFITS OF QUOTA LEGISLATION STOP CANADIAN AND OTHER BRITISH DOMINION PICTURES CAN STILL SERVE FOR EXHIBITOR'S QUOTA HERE

IN PRECISELY SAME MANNER AS U.K. FILMS STOP ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEW AND OLD ACTS IN THIS RESPECT IS THAT DOMINION FILMS NO LONGER QUALIFY FOR RENTERS' QUOTA TO ENABLE RENTERS OF FOREIGN PICTURES TO DISTRIBUTE SUCH FOREIGN PICTURES IN GREAT BRITAIN STOP LETTER QUOTED IN EDITORIAL IS UNFAIR AND INACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF FACTS AS WILL BE SEEN WHEN ACT PUBLISHED LAST SATURDAY IS RECEIVED". Signed KEARNEY.

We have already pointed out the British preferential tariffs dealing with a reference in Mr. Kearney's cable. We will refer to his other statements as we proceed, and prove to him and to you THAT IT IS NOT THE DIGEST'S STATEMENTS WHICH ARE UNFAIR AND MISLEADING BUT THE STATEMENTS OF MR. KEARNEY, WHICH AFFIRM IN ONE SENTENCE WHAT THEY DENY IN THE NEXT.

We are aware of the fact that the British Film Quota Act has been prepared as a Labour measure primarily, the dominant intention being that the British Film Industry's resources and income shall provide employment for technicians, and mechanics of various kind and degrees at the British producing studios. One needs no sub-normal intelligence to arrive at this conclusion, one has but to read the Labour cost provisions of British Film productions to see the facts, and to note the provisions in the Act which define what is a British Film for Renter's Quota purposes.

We have no quarrel with any government which seeks to utilize any serviceable medium to create employment within its own country, but, and there is always a "But" to be considered, when the British Quota Act was framed, it should have been called an English Quota Act if it was the intention to differentiate between pictures made in the United Kingdom and those made in Canada, Australia and the other Dominions.

(Continued on Page 5)

RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

WE are hearing a great deal about the "Birth of a Baby". No it's not the legitimate offspring of the Infant Industry, but a child which appears to be what is commonly called a Bastard!

I understand that someone made a scientific film called, "The Birth of a Baby", and that someone else gave birth to another Baby Film.

You know that giving birth to babies is so easy for men. At one hospital at Toronto, the doctor in charge of a maternity case said to a worried father, "Don't worry, Mr. Smith, we never lose a father".

Now take a look at Canada, Mrs. Dionne had six babies and then five more all at once, and the next year another baby, and the next year another baby. It is so easy for the father, in fact it's a hobby with some men.

A welfare worker once said to a woman, the latter who was ready for "The Birth of a Baby", "Now, see here Mrs. Jones, we have just prepared an outfit for your last baby, who is now only three month's old, and you are on the way to having another baby, you'll have to speak to your husband about it."

The expectant mother looked up at the welfare worker sorrowfully and said,

"H'I can't speak to 'im; h'its 'is h'only 'obby."

Which again brings us to the Baby under ban.

Pictures of this Baby were reproduced in the current issue of "Life", and it appears that the District Attorney of New York State, Samuel J. Foley ordered the seizure of all copies of the publication of "Life", which contained "four pages of 'The Birth of the Baby'".

IT was alleged that the four pages were in violation of the penal code, which forbids "possession and sale of lewd, lascivious obscene literature or pictures."

The Life magazine in question has now been banned in Canada, although our first information was that the Department of National Revenue at Ottawa had received no complaints; and the magazine would not be banned.

We hope that Lizzie Devers, of Sapulpa, Oklahoma will like her first motion picture. She will be 106 years old on May 1st and she is going to see her first picture.

Mrs. Devers knew General Sherman. She says that "he was a handsome man, worth any girl's time". I'll bet that when General Sherman was obliged to doff his hat to Lizzie, in farewell, that this was the occasion on which he said, "War is hell".

Dave Marlowe, author of one of the best sellers, "Coming, Sir", states that the urge to write came to him after he returned to England from New York in 1932, and saw Greta Garbo in "Mata Hari".

The waiter-author states that he noticed that Garbo smoked cigarettes of black paper, and the next morning when he saw in a mirror a bit of cigarette paper stuck to his lips, his literary career began with an idea for a detective story.

Which reminds me that I would like to see "Mata Hari" again, one of Garbo's best pictures — which also reminds me to ask, "Where is Garbo and where is Stokowski?"

My, but there would be a story for someone to write, if Garbo has said to Stokowski after their holiday, "I want to be alone".

Could one write a musical score and call it Symphony Pathétique, or the Unfinished Symphony, or Greta Stokowski or Stokowski's "One Hundred Men Without A Girl"? I'm tired thinking of titles — you try. But this isn't a movie contest and there are no cash prizes!



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Digest Reviews and Previews

"SHOPGIRL'S EVIDENCE"

VITAPHONE

LATEST in the Floyd Gibbon's True Adventure Series, this one lacks the punch the others to date have contained. A rather mild tale of how a shop-girl is almost fired because of a lost parcel. Girl catches the shop-lifters who stole the package. Rates just fair in a series that has always been excellent.

Running time—12½ minutes.

"A STAR IS HATCHED"

VITAPHONE

ONE of the Merrie Melodies Technicolor Series, produced by Leon Schlesinger, and starring a farm-yard heroine, nameless, but whom we christen "Fanny Fowl", if the name is not already in use elsewhere. "Fanny" has the Hollywood bug, as evidenced by her emotings à la Hepburn and Garbo. When a famous Hollywood director stops to get gas at her filling station, he gives her one of those "if-you-ever-want-a-job-in-pictures-look-me-up" cards, and "Fanny" promptly drops everything, including a rural swain, to hitch-hike to the Film Capital. There we see caricatures of John Barrymore, Clark Gable, Mae West, W. C. Fields, Charley Chaplin, Dick Powell and others, and "Fanny" is tossed out on her ear (?). She returns to her farm-yard suitor, and the cartoon ends with her pinning back the ears of one of her offspring for spouting Hepburn.

This is rather a long review for a cartoon, but it is a cute story, well produced, and deserves a rave.

Running time—8 minutes.

"HOW TO START THE DAY"

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

IN which Robert Benchley shows us how to get out of bed, take our morning shower, rush through getting dressed, and just get out of the door at five minutes to nine, only to find it is Sunday. Lots of laughs in this one, with the inimitable Benchley at his best. You'll love the adventures with the tooth brush and toothpaste. An excellent short, certain to please.

Running time—10 minutes.

"EARS OF EXPERIENCE"

RKO RADIO

EDGAR KENNEDY, king of the "slow-burn", goes to the "Ears of Experience" on the advice of his wife, Florence Lake, to find out how to advance himself in his business. "Ears" advises him to put on a front, rent a mansion, and entertain his boss. Kennedy follows orders, but after a series of misadventures, not only fails to gain a promotion, but he is fired.

Contains lots of laughs, with Kennedy as usual, a riot.

Running time—18 minutes.

"Say L."



By MERRYL LEA

GEORGE WEEKS, well known to Canadians, for George was for years and years, Canadian General Manager, Paramount Pictures, is now Sales Manager of Monogram, and we can expect that Monogram is going to go places.

When George Weeks was in Canada his idea was that Paramount could not afford to remain out of one town regardless of its size. In those days national advertising carried the slogan, "If it's a Paramount Picture it's the best show in town".

George covered Canada, and the slogan, "Let George Do It" was good for fifty-two weeks in the year, which gave George a full year of sales.

Prior to his Monogram association, George Weeks was with the Gaumont-British office in the United States. We understand that 100 shares of Monogram stock will be given to the man who goes over the top in the coming "George Weeks Playdate Drive". This will be George Weeks' personal gift, the company will make an additional award.

We have noticed that when a company gets ready for big business, that somehow or other George Weeks is put on the job — so watch Monogram, it has moved to the 23rd floor of the RKO Bldg., the space which Grand National formerly occupied. RKO Bldg. rhymes with O.K. — and it's O.K. with us, George, if you put your Monogram on the Map of the U.S. and Canada, the latter that nice country which you looked back at longingly when bigger business called you across the border.

AT Fort William, Ontario, on April 12th, Mr. William McCollum was presented with the Mary Pickford Trophy, awarded in a contest sponsored by The Globe and Mail newspaper for the largest speckled trout caught in Ontario waters during 1937. This sterling silver trophy was offered for competition by Miss Pickford last year.

The fish which won the Mary Pickford Trophy, weighed seven pounds one ounce, and was landed off the Virgin Islands in Lake Nipigon.

And so a 'speckled' trout which has a 'spotted' reputation is caught off the "Virgin Islands" — and wins a prize presented by none other than Mary Pickford.

MR. W. A. SUMMERVILLE, Conservative Member, Riverdale, in the Legislature this week, asked that a ban be placed on United States companies making motion pictures in Ontario without using Canadian Labor.

Premier Hepburn answered him by pointing out that entry into Canada came under Ottawa jurisdiction and stated,

"When I tried to stop John L. Lewis coming into this country, I could get no help from there."

"A lot of our own technicians are going to be on relief if something isn't done," Mr. Summerville declared.

To which Mr. Hepburn (who has a strong publicity sense), replied,

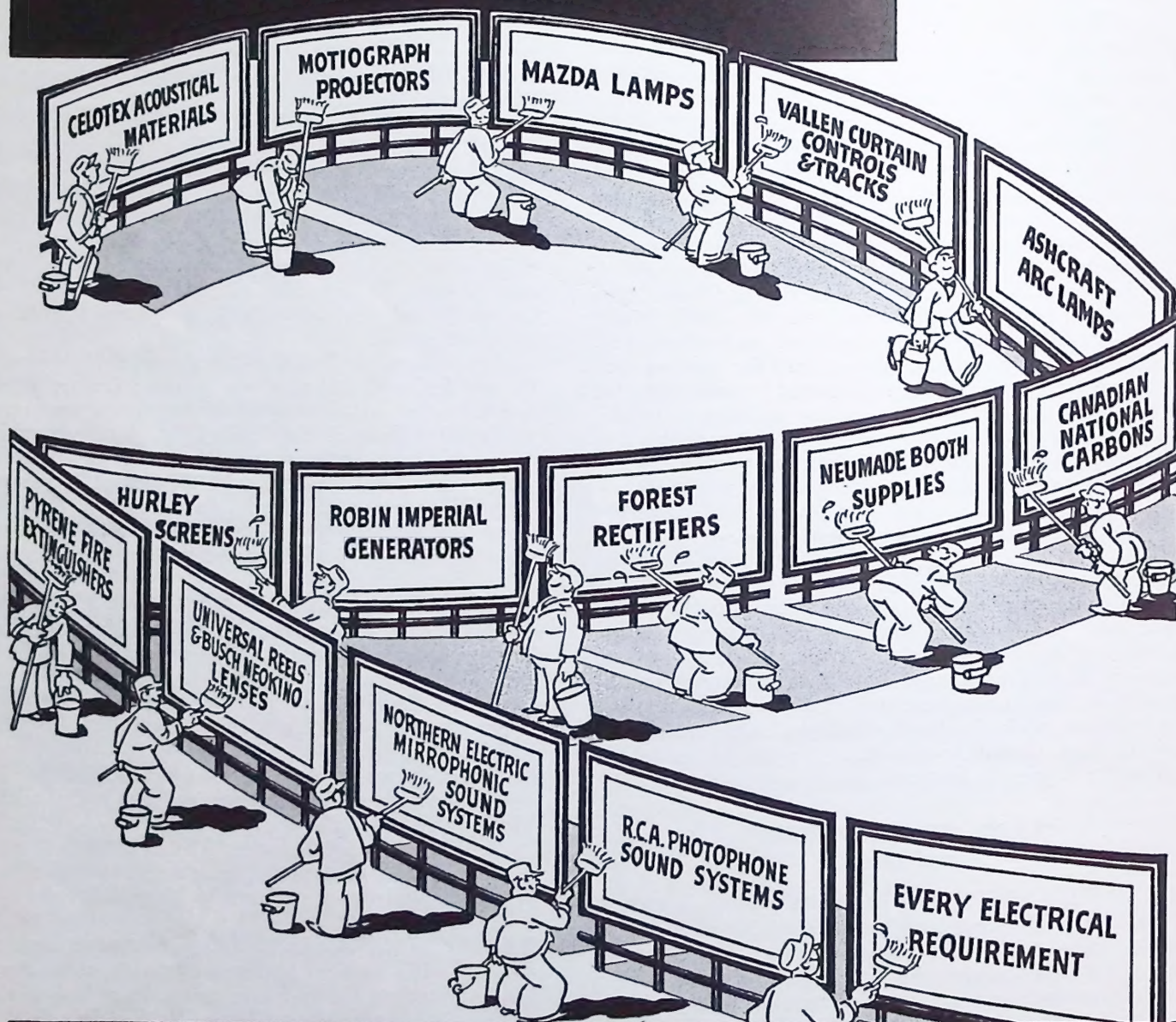
"If these companies come here and make films to be shown in the United States, I think we should be glad of the FREE ADVERTISING."

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British Film Digest

By WARD SHAFESBURY

FINALLY, after many months of preliminary negotiations, amendments and heated arguments, the notorious new Films Act has emerged, fresh-scrubbed, for the delight and edification of the British Industry. The next ten years will afford an excellent opportunity for testing the keenness of its mettle and we can only hope that the results will be at least commensurable with the agony the Act has inflicted on an already worry-weary Trade. The Producers will like it, no doubt about that; given so stalwart a protector they should be right happy about the whole thing — comfortable in the assurance of a guaranteed market. Some of the Renters will grumble — it's a pretty stiff quota, after all, but at least they know that their customers have to buy, so why worry. The Exhibitor, as usual, will bear the heavy end of the barrel, he's the Goat and everyone knows that a Goat is used to a regular diet of rubbish. The Exhibitor is not so sure that *his* customers will accept their Quota fare so resignedly — and there's the catch.

However, the Act is finally here — so let's clear up its technicalities, its main confusions, and then forget all about it for another ten years! The Renter has the principal obligations — his quota begins for the first year with 15 per cent for films over 3,000 feet in length and reaches a maximum of 30 per cent in 1946-47; his shorts quota ranges from a minimum of 15 per cent to 25 per cent at the end of the ten-year period. The Exhibitor operates on a slightly smaller quota — 12½ to 25 per cent for features and 12½ to 22½ per cent for shorts. A certain measure of relief is afforded the Renter in the Double and Treble Quota clause, under which Renters may limit the amount of footage they produce by incurring higher expenditures (though at least fifty per cent of the required footage under the Act must be produced). The actual Double Quota minimum approximates \$112,000 labour costs and the Treble Quota \$190,000. In connection with the above a reciprocity clause is introduced which allows a foreign renter to be credited with a double quota film that has been acquired for distribution abroad; in other words, he can count it once for quota — a Treble Quota picture, under the same circumstances, will count twice. These are the main features of the new Act. Its motive is self-evident — but whether the attempted suppression of Hollywood-produced films will result in the creation of a new and finer brand of British pictures or whether we shall see another decade of slapdash quickies touched up with plushier settings and higher-salaried hams, well, Time alone can tell.

SAMUEL GOLDWYN GIVES LOWDOWN

SAMUEL (The Great) Goldwyn arrived in England last week and Southampton's streets were filled with avid newsmongers eager to get Sam's confirmation of the numerous rumours current in the Trade. Again, the old U.A. Deal was disinterred — Was Sam to join with Korda in buying Chaplin's share in U.A.? Was it true that Lord Nuffield had a million pounds to invest in British Films? Is he going to buy into the Odeon circuit? Well, what about it, Sam? Give us the low-down. Sam gave: he stated as categorically as he could that he was not interested in any deal and that the U.A. deal was dead — stone dead. All he knew about Lord Nuffield was that he had something to do with Motors — that was all. As far as he was concerned, all he was interested in were the pictures that the Corporation was going to get next year. He stated that he was still considering the possibilities of producing in England and com-

mented on the magnificent studios that Korda had at Denham. His own production plans include six pictures — the first will be "Graustark" co-starring Gary Cooper and Merle Oberon.

Several of the new Goldwyn pictures will be in Technicolor — Goldwyn revealed that the Technicolor people had evolved a novel process which, by eliminating the triple negative system simplifies production and cuts costs in half! In the light of this we may expect a rapidly increasing number of Technicolor productions within the next six months.

"YANK AT OXFORD" GIVEN BIG SEND-OFF

I DOUBT that any picture has ever had, in England, the send-off that M-G-M's "A Yank At Oxford" received last week at the Empire. It was a "diplomatic premiere" with an exceedingly distinguished audience — the surprise however, came at the end of the film — the Hollywood members of the cast, Robert Taylor, Maureen O'Sullivan and Lionel Barrymore came "on the air" speaking from the radio station at Hollywood, and chatted with the British members of the cast — Vivien Leigh, Griffith Jones, Edmund Gwenn and others who were on the Empire Stage.

NEWS FROM THE STUDIOS

"YELLOW SANDS", the famous Eden Philpotts' play of West Country fishermen and farmers, started shooting last Monday for Associated British — twelve years ago the play had a remarkable run at the Haymarket Theatre — now, over a decade later, Amy Veness is repeating her original role in the part of Jannifer and Diana Churchill is also in the cast. The story tells of an old maiden lady of means and the comedy revolves around the attitude of her relatives towards the money — an old story but set as it will be against a background of tiny Cornwall fishing coves, Devonshire farms, and villages overlooking the rolling moors, it should have a distinctively English charm. Herbert Brenon, director "The Housemaster" will direct . . . Butcher's, the oldest independent in British Film production, has just completed "Mountains of Mourne" — exteriors were shot in the mountains of Mourne, Wicklow Fair and Dublin . . . Teddington starts production again this week with "The Return of Carol Sawyer" — Bebe Daniels and Arthur Margetson are co-starred in the film and Chili Bouchier, Wyndham Goldie and Edna Dare will support . . . Scott Sunderland, for many years a member of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre makes his screen debut as Colonel Pickering in the Pascal Productions film version of G. B. Shaw's "Pygmalion"

PRESS PREVIEWS

SOLO British feature of the week is G.F.D.'s musical melange "Kicking the Moon Around" — a frivolous story of the young millionaire and his crooner protegee — Ambrose and His Band are the starring syncopaters and Harry Richman sings a few chorus with finesse — Evelyn Dall does some adequate crooning and Florence Desmond assists with several well-done impersonations.

WARNER'S APPOINT ASHER SUCCESSOR

JEROME J. JACKSON, formerly associate producer at Teddington, has been appointed Managing Director of Warners' Teddington studios in succession to Mr. Irving Asher who resigned last week.

British Grosses Alone Will Repay Metro Production Costs On "Yank At Oxford".

Spot News

Edmonton, Alta. — L. Williams of Winnipeg, California-trained motion picture technician, has completed arrangements for the shooting of a full length feature picture depicting mushroom development of mining areas north of this city and the personalities responsible for the phenomenal development of Goldfields, Yellowknife, Cameron Bay and other mining fields. A Toronto cameraman will arrive in Edmonton this month to begin filming the feature here. Theme of the film will be "From Edmonton to the Arctic Circle by Aeroplane". A sound track will be added to the film when it has been edited and prepared for release. Leading theatres in the United States and Canada have made arrangements to show the film. In addition, American news-reel companies are planning to purchase hundreds of feet of the film as "spot news" attractions.

THEATRE MATINEE HELPS NEEDY

Pembroke, Ont. — The management of the O'Brien Theatre here held a special "Food Matinee" for the benefit of the needy people of Pembroke last Tuesday, April 11th. The price of admission was any article of food, and all food received was turned over to a welfare committee for distribution to those in need of it. Many persons, unable to attend the show, sent in their contribution anyway, and these were included in the "food pile".

Favors Single Feature

An interesting letter from Fred Guest of Hamilton states that in our last Movie Contest we did not word our second question clearly enough to get the best results. What we should have asked was, "Are you in favour of a program consisting of one good feature and a number of short subjects, or are you in favour of two features without short subjects?"

Mr. Guest believes the vote would have been in favour of one good feature and a number of shorts. Maybe you're right, Mr. Guest — we are all for that kind of a program!

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EXHIBITORS CHOOSE BEST PICTURES

This column is open to exhibitors' selections of best pictures. Send in your selection to The Digest.

"LIFE BEGINS AT COLLEGE"

"This one seemed to please all the patrons. People like comedies now — they need something to take their minds off their own worries. This was the best we played last month."

HARRY ALEXANDER,
Manager, Lansdowne Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

"THAT CERTAIN WOMAN"

"The best picture played at the Bonita in March was 'That Certain Woman'. The picture itself was 'tops', and the superb acting of Bette Davis drew the applause of our patrons."

HARRY LESTER,
Manager, Bonita Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

"LIFE OF EMILE ZOLA"

"In my opinion, the best picture we played during the month of March was Warner Brothers' 'The Life of Emile Zola'. The fact that it received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science's Award did not influence me in making my selection. The picture did very well at the box-office, and what's more important, was really appreciated by our patrons."

HERB WISENER,
Manager, Capitol Theatre,
Pictou, N.S.

"HEIDI"

"The Shirley Temple picture, 'Heidi' was the best attraction played at the Beverly last month. Being a Shirley Temple starrer was enough box-office attraction. The picture did big business."

KEITH WILSON,
Manager, Beverly Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

"STAGE DOOR"

"A perfect picture, well done. The first picture in which I actually liked Hepburn, which was also the general comment among the patrons."

DAN KRENDEL,
Manager, Tivoli Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

"HURRICANE"

"I sincerely believe that 'Hurricane' was the most outstanding picture that played the Fox Theatre during March or any other month. Thanks, Samuel Goldwyn, for not selling Famous Players."

HAROLD KAY,
Manager, Fox Theatre,
Toronto, Ont.

Stop! Look! Listen!

Gross receipts Famous Players Canadian Corp., disclosed at meeting of shareholders, Tuesday, April 12th, revealed an increase of over 10%. Mr. N. L. Nathanson was chairman, and stated that there was an increase in the number of Canadian shareholders in the Company. Mr. Y. Frank Freeman, of New York, congratulated Mr. Nathanson on the fine annual report and progress which the company was making. . . . "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" will appear throughout the province of Quebec for its second runs under title "Blanche Neige". Walt Disney's French version for distribution throughout France will be the print used. . . . I. Blumenthal, Foreign representative, Paramount, and a brother of Ben and William Blumenthal, died following a heart attack aboard the "Saturnia" which docked at New York Thursday, April 7th. Burial in Union Fields, Cypress Hills. . . . Leon S. Snider of the Snider and Dean Circuits, Australia, is in United States conferring with producer-distributors on Australian situation, states that adjustments are to be made in connection with Australian market. Australia has 1,190 theatres over which 50% are operated by circuits. New Zealand's theatres, which number about 452 are practically circuit controlled. . . . Phil Reisman reports theatre business in England is improving following subsidizing of war scare which Austrian situation created. . . . National Board of Review join the ANTIS in respect to Neely Bill which is going to make it tough for Uncle Neely. . . . Nicholas M. Schenck is in Hollywood for his yearly conference governing production, meanwhile Loew's Incorporated will pay a quarterly dividend of \$1.62½ on the \$6.50 cumulative preferred stock of May 14th. . . . Captain Ewan Wallace, Secretary, Board of Trade, informed House of Commons that representations had been made by the Government of the U.S. to the British Government in respect to British Film Quota, the treaty negotiations between the two countries were referred to. . . . Ned Depinet RKO Sales Drive shows that Fred Horne of Omaha leads, with M. Plottel of Montreal in 3rd place, Harry Wolfe of Winnipeg in 4th, W. S. Jones of Vancouver in 5th place. There is still six weeks to go. . . . His Majesty, King George VI will be heard over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation network at 6 A.M., opening of Empire Exhibition, Glasgow, May 3rd. . . . 20th Century-Fox budget 4 million dollars (\$4,000,000) for six of its English productions. Gracie Fields and Anna'bella will be featured in two pictures each, which is sufficient indication that Gracie's 1st has clicked with the Home Office. . . . Korda reported to be in the money again with Prudential Life Insurance, which certainly gives him a new lease of life. . . . Producers—have you noticed that circus fashions are becoming stylish, which should give you an idea that circus pictures may be popular. . . . The Great Chaliapin will sing no more, and Child's of Toronto will tell a story of how the late Chaliapin, following his concert at Massey Hall, at which he sang the famous "Flea Song" and "The Volga Boatman", ate about 3 dozen buckwheat cakes with syrup as one of the courses of a little democratic supper.

"Snow White" Still Going Strong In 6th Week, Uptown, Toronto.